

SHINING TIME STATION

"Schemer's Robot"

BY

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FIRST DRAFT
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SCENE 1
(MAINSET)

(STACY, ALONE, REFERRING TO A PIECE OF PAPER, IS REHEARSING FOR A TOUR OF THE STATION)

STACY:

Welcome to Shining Time Station! No. that's not right. Maybe I should be more cheerful.

(SHE REFERS TO PAPER, STARTS AGAIN. SHE WILL RUN THROUGH THE GAMUT OF PRESENTATION, CHEERFUL, CASUAL, EVEN NEWSCASTERLY. DURING THIS KIDS APPEAR IN B.G., NOTE HER, LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER, VERY PUZZLED)

Welcome to Shining Time Station! No, no... Hey there, how's about it? Shining Time Station. No, that's not right. This is Shining Time Station, Stacy Jones Touring.

guiding you on this tour

And that's the way it is - Shining Time Station

(KIDS GIGGLE, STACY TURNS)

Oh hi, kids. I didn't see you there.

DAN:

(AS THEY ENTER)

Hi, Aunt Stacy. What're you doing?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

STACY:

Oh, I'm still practicing
for when the new tourist
comes *in* to Shining Time
Station. You know,
planning a tour for so
many people is harder
than I thought. There
are so many wonderful and
magical things about the
station, I don't know
where to start!

(MR. C POPS IN, STANDING ON TICKET
COUNTER)

MR. C:

Did someone say magical?

BECKY:

Hi, Mr. Conductor.
Stacy's having trouble
planning her tour of the
station.

STACY:

I know I want to start
with something special,
but I don't know what.

MR. C:

Well how about *starting* right here?

KARA:

What's so special about
the counter of the ticket
booth?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

What's so special about
the counter of the ticket
booth? Kara, I'm
surprised at you.
Everything's special
about the ticket booth.
This very counter has
been here for years, and
it's been a source of
much hope, even fear.

clear?

since the Station First opened

(ALMOST BOUNCING ALONG TICKET
COUNTERTOP)

This is where journeys
began for all sorts of
places,
People visiting friends
or wide open spaces!
This is where children
have stood with
anticipation,
Jumping for joy at summer
vacation!
Grandma's have stood with
cookies in hand ~~and~~ on their way to visit their
for travel to
grandchildren, in far
distant lands!
For fat and thin, for age
and youth
There've been oodles of
hopes at this ticket
booth!

to

moving their whole families to settle and build a
new home wide open spaces

rewrite

results

You see?

STACY:

Mr. Conductor, you're
absolutely right!
Everything's special at
Shining Time Station!

DAN:

Even Schemer's Tourist
Corner?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(DAN POINTS, THEY ALL TURN. WE SEE FOR THE FIRST TIME SCHEMER'S "TOURIST CORNER" ERECTED NEAR THE ARCADE. TACKY TACKY TACKY. STACY VISIBLY HATES IT. SHE AND THE KIDS GO OVER. EVERY ITEM THEY PICK UP IS A NORMAL ITEM WHICH SCHEMER HAS SIMPLY LABELED "I LOVE (HEART) SHINING TIME STATION")

STACY:

That Schemer! The minute he heard tourists were come, he set up this awful booth so he could sell them ... Shining Time Station instant mashed potato mix?

KARA:

Shining Time Station army boots?

BECKY:

Shining Time Station hockey equipment? *hockey sticks?*

MR. C:

You know, something tells me Schemer doesn't understand the spirit of this place.

STACY:

He certainly doesn't. Look, he's even blocked part of the mural! This mural is more than just a picture, it tells the station's history; from the first wagon trains that settled the Indian Valley, to the people who struggled to build the railroad. And over here, where the first corner stone was laid by Casey Jones himself. Think of it: the first stone of the first station on a line that meant people could come to live and work here, raise their families! This isn't just a station, it's a history of people's lives; their struggles, hopes, dreams, and achievements!

covered / blocked the view of

*gave people a chance to settle on a
~~connected people with a~~
~~new land~~ a new chance to
new land, raise a family, work
to help their neighbors*

rewrote

(KIDS AND MR. C LOOK AT ONE ANOTHER AND ALL BREAK INTO APPLAUSE AND "HOORAY!" STACY BECOMES SELF-CONSCIOUS, LAUGHS AT HERSELF)

Gee, I guess I got carried away!

BECKY:

But that's what you should say on your tour!

STACY:

You think so?

MR. C:

Becky's absolutely right. It's much better when you just speak from the heart and do things the way you know best!

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

STACY:

Mr. Conductor, that just
might be the best advice
yet!

Too didactic

MR. C:

Speaking of advice --

Speaking from the heart

(CHECKS WATCH)

If I don't hurry, I'll be
late! Today's my day to
sit in the Sob Story
Booth on the Island of
Sodor and hear all the
engines tell their sad
sob stories. I give them
advice and they go away
feeling a little
better... or at least not
so sad.

listen to

STACY:

Well, I'm sure you'll be
wonderful. Look how your
advice helped me.

MR. C:

Oh, advice isn't so hard.
Matter of fact, advice is
sort of like Christmas
presents: sometimes it's
more fun to give than to
receive.

(HE POPS OUT. BILLY APPEARS
WHEELING IN HUGE WOODEN CRATE ON A
DOLLY)

BILLY:

Heads up, make way!
Mail's in!

BECKY:

Mail? You mean that box
is mail for someone?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Sure is. And if I guess
right --

(CHECKS TAG)

Yep. It's for Schemer.

STACY:

Such a big box. I wonder
what it could be.

BECKY:

I hope it's not more
Shining Time Station
instant mashed potato
mix.

KARA:

Maybe it's a --

SCHEMER (O.S.):

IT'S HERE!!!

(ALL JUMP BACK. SCHEMER STANDS ON
STEPS STARING AT CRATE, NOW BOLTS
TOWARD IT. HE'S FRANTIC WITH
EXCITEMENT)

Get away get away get
away! Let me at it! ✓

STACY:

Schemer, are you all
right?

SCHEMER:

All right, Miss Jones?
All right? I am right as
snow. It's here! Quick,
someone give me a hammer!

doesn't work

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

(HANDS HIM HAMMER)

Schemer, you going to
give us a hint?

SCHEMER:

(BEGINS TO WRENCH OFF BOARDS OF
CRATE)

A hint? It's only the
greatest labor saving
device since the
invention of the electric
sock-roller! And I --
Schemer -- now own one!

EVERYONE:

An electric sock roller??

SCHEMER?

~~A ele~~ -- I am referring,
if you must know, to one
genuine, first grad, A-
one -- ROBOT!

*elim-
premium*

(WITH A ONE-FINGER FLOURISH HE
DROPS THE LAST BOARD OF THE CRATE,
WHICH FALLS OPEN. INSIDE WE SEE A
SLIGHTLY CHEESY 1950'S ROBOT, ALL
CANS AND OIL DRUMS. EVERYONE
"AAH'S" IN AMAZEMENT. KIDS CIRCLE

You can say it!
"Schemer, you're a
genius!" Go ahead, I
won't mind. Well?
Aren't you going to say
it?

BILLY:

I don't know, Schemer.
I'm sort of at a loss for
words.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Then how about this?
"Schemer, where did you
get such a great idea,
although we know that
great ideas come to you
like crackers off a
tree?"

} like ~~crackers~~ to a
~~tree~~ to a ~~place~~
flies to a garbage can

STACY:

I've got one! How
about: "Schemer, what do
you need a robot for?"

SCHEMER:

Obviously, Miss Jones,
you intend to work the
rest of your life. I do
not. This robot will do
everything I do; run my
new Tourist Corner, my
Arcade, count my nickels
and generally be servant
to its master -- moi!
You can say it now:
"Schemer, that's
brilliant."

STACY:

Schemer, that's crazy!

SCHEMER:

Thank you. What?!

STACY:

Why would anyone want a
robot to do their work
for them?

} weak
question

BECKY:

Yeah, and what's so hard
about what you do anyway?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

I'll have you know that
what I do is not only
hard, by no one else
would ever want to do it
in the first place.

BILLY:

I don't know, Schemer.
Seems to me we all need
something to work on,
even if it's a --

STACY:

Cleaning your room,
making a drawing,
anything so long as it's
something.

SCHEMER:

Oh yeah? Well you're all
just jealous. You wait.
I'll have this overgrown
toaster programmed in no
time. And then it's
Schemer on easy street!

BILLY:

Well, it's your choice...

(BILLY AND STACY MOVE OFF, LEAVING
AN INDIGNANT SCHEMER WITH ROBOT AND
KIDS)

SCHEMER:

Obviously, children, Mr.
Twofeathers and Miss
Jones do not understand
progress. They would
have laughed at Einstein
for inventing the theory
of electricity.

(SEES DAN READING BOOKLET)

What's that?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

DAN:

It's the instruction
book.

SCHEMER:

Instruction book
destruction book! I know
how to run a robot.
First, press "On"!

(SCHEMER PRESSES ON AND ROBOT
LIGHTS UP, WHIZZES, BLINKS, ALL
THAT STUFF. IT EVEN HAS EYES THAT
MOVE. SCHEMER ALMOST SCREAMS IN
SURPRISE, RECOVERS)

I knew that was going to
happen! Un... what next?

BECKY:

Introduce yourself.

SCHEMER:

Uh, I Schemer. You
robot.

ROBOT:

Affirmative: you
Schemer, me robot!

SCHEMER:

I love it I love it I
love it! Let's try
something a little more
truthful. I Schemer,
Supreme Master of
Nickels and Finance,
you robot. Well...?

ROBOT:

Would you like to try our
kolbassa sausage?

(Kobler)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Kolbassa sausage? Wait a minute, wait a minute. What kind of stupid robot says stupid things like that?

DAN:

Maybe it doesn't know what it is yet. It says you have to show it its job.

SCHEMER:

I know that, I knew that! Come this way Robot. May I call you Robby?

(LAUGHS)

May I call you Robby? I kill me! Come on, over to the Arcade. We're not in something as stupid as the food business, we're in something as stupid as the arcade business. Now!...

(SCHEMER BEGINS SHOWING ROBOT MACHINES)

This is a crane machine. See? It's a -- well, its a thing. This is a haunted hunk of junk jukebox. This is -- wait a minute, wait a minute.

(ROBOT REMAINS IN FRONT OF JUKEBOX, SCHEMER TRIES TO PULL IT AWAY)

Over here. This is a -- you've seen the jukebox. This is a cheese giggle -- Excusez-moi, Robby, but there are other machines for you to learn.

KARA:

Gee, Schemer, it seems to
like the jukebox.

SCHEMER:

It doesn't like the
jukebox, nobody likes the
jukebox -- it's haunted.
Forget the jukebox! Come
on ---

(SCHEMER TRIES TO PULL ROBOT AWAY
BUT IT'S IMMOBILE. SCHEMER
PRACTICALLY HAS FEET UP ON RAILING
TRYING TO PULL IT AWAY)

Will you kids help?

(KIDS GRAB ONTO SCHEMER, ALL TRYING
TO PULL ROBOT FROM JUKEBOX)

SCENE 2

(PUPPETS ALL VERY WORRIED)

GRACE:

What is it, Tito?

TITO:

It's a washin' machine
and it wants to eat us!

REX:

It t'aint't no worshing
machine, Tito. It's a
robot.

TEX:

And it wants to eat us.

DIDI:

I like it.

OTHERS:

Huh?

TITO:

You're tellin' me you can
dig such a big scary
weird thing?

DIDI:

Just because something's
big and weird-looking
doesn't mean we have to
be scared of it.

REX:

She's got a point, Tex.

TEX:

Sure does, Rex.

REX:

But let's be scared
anyway!

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

(ALL CONTINUE TO SCREAM AND RUN
AROUND EXCEPT DIDI)

SCENE 3
(ARCADE)

(EVERYONE STILL PULLING, FINALLY
SCHEMER LETS GO AND ALL LAND ON
FLOOR IN PILE. AS THEY LIE ON
FLOOR)

BECKY:

You know, Schemer, I
don't think Robby wants
to learn about the
machines.

SCHEMER:

(AS THEY GET UP)

Okay, okay, we can learn
about the machines later.
Time for some serious
slave robot-type stuff!

(SCHEMER HANDS ROBOT HIS JACKET)

You may assist me in
putting on my jacket!

ROBOT:

Yes, Supreme Master of
Nickels and Finance.

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

That's more like it!

(SCHEMER PUTS HIS BACK TO ROBOT, WHO HOLDS JACKET. SCHEMER PUTS ONE ARM THROUGH, GOES TO PUT OTHER ARM THROUGH, ROBOT REMOVES JACKET FROM FIRST ARM, THEN SCHEMER DOES THAT ARM, BUT OTHER ARM IS OUT. THEY ARE PRACTICALLY CIRCLING EACH OTHER UNTIL FINALLY THEY BECOME ENTANGLED IN THE JACKET)

What are you doing????

(AND SCHEMER'S HANDS BALL UP THE JACKET AND IT GOES FLYING. AN EXASPERATED AND OUT OF BREATH SCHEMER STARES AT ROBOT)

Okay, obviously valet service is out.

BECKY:

Gee, Schemer, the whole slave idea doesn't seem to be working out.

servant

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Maybe that was too complicated. After all, Paris wasn't built in Rome in one day. Dan, pass me that bucket of water and the scrub brush.

(DAN GIVES HIM BUCKET OF WATER AND SCRUB BRUSH. SCHEMER GETS DOWN ON FLOOR, DEMONSTRATES CLEANING THE FLOOR FOR THE ROBOT)

Robot, pay attention; I;m only going to do this once. We put the water on the floor and we scrub. Rub a dub dub three men go for a sub. Now you do it!

(ROBOT HANDS SCHEMER HIS JACKET)

No no no no no no no no! Here! Take the pail of water and the scrub brush. Water on the floor!

(ROBOT TENTATIVELY LOOKS AT SCRUB BRUSH, TAKES IT, TAKES BUCKET OF WATER, POURS IT ALL ON THE FLOOR. SCHEMER ALMOST SCREAMS)

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 4
(WORKSHOP)

(BILLY IS WORKING ON A LIGHT. IN
B.G. WE SEE SCHEMER IN MAINSET
DEALING WITH ROBOT. KIDS ENTER)

KIDS:

Hi, Billy! Whatchya
doing?

BILLY:

Oh, just working on this
signal light. See? Got
a loose On/Off switch.
How goes it with
Schemer's robot?

DAN:

He says there are some
kinks to work out.

BILLY:

Kinks, eh? Sounds to me
like Schemer hasn't taken
the time to find out all
he needs to know about
his robot.

BECKY:

Yeah, but it would be
neat to have one, don't
you think?

BILLY:

You mean let a machine
do all your work of you?

(for)

KARA:

Yeah, that'd be great!
It'd make your bed or put
away your clothes or --
anything!

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Un-huh. Tell you
something about machines,
though. They're only as
good as the people that
work them.

DAN:

You mean machines aren't
any good?

BILLY:

No, machines are good for
some things, but there
are other things only a
human ^{being} can do.

BECKY:

Like fixing a light?

BILLY:

Something like that.
See, a person should
understand a machined
first before they use it,
so that way if it breaks
down or isn't doing the
right thing, the person
can fix it or do the job
themselves. And I have
my suspicions about how
well Schemer knows his
machine.

BECKY:

Yeah but once he knows
it, it will do everything
for him, won't it?

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Could. Might not. I remember once when one of the electric railroad switches broke down and the coal cars were coming through. With a broken switch, that way it sure looked like the coal car was going to collide with one of the freight trains, which was heading toward it on the same track.

KARA:

Did the switch fix itself in time?

BILLY:

(CHUCKLES)

Nope. I had to go out there and work the switch myself.

DAN:

Was everything okay?

BILLY:

Sure. Spent all night fixing the electric switch, but it all worked out. You know why? Because I know how to do it.

*how to do the job
→ knew the machine and the
job instead of the machine*

(FLICKS ON THE LIGHT HE'S BEEN WORKING ON)

Get the idea?

(KIDS THINK ABOUT THIS AS WE GO TO:)

SCENE 5
(ARCADE)

(SCHEMER IS LYING IN A HAMMOCK DRINKING A COOL DRINK. THE ROBOT, WEARING AN APRON WITH POCKETS OF CLEANING GEAR, A CHANGE BELT, AND BROOM IN HAND, IS SWEEPING THE WALL)

SCHEMER:

No no no no no! We do not sweep the walls, we sweep the junk off the floor. Now cut it out, you hear me?

ROBOT:

Affirmative: cut it out.

(ROBOT TAKES OUT SCISSORS, CUTS HAMMOCK ROPE. SCHEMER FALLS ONTO FLOOR. ROBOT BEGINS SWEEPING)

Sweeping junk off the floor.

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

No! I said sweep the
floor, not me! Sweep the
floor! Not --

(BUT EVEN WHEN HE STANDS UP ROBOT
CONTINUES SWEEPING HIM. SCHEMER'S
DODGING AND RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE.
FINALLY THEY SQUARE OFF, LOOK AT
ONE ANOTHER, ALMOST A SHOW DOWN.
SCHEMER MAKES HIS MOVE, IS FASTER
THAN THE ROBOT, GRABS THE BROOM)

I got it, you oversized
electric toothbrush!
Now! Let your master
show you the fine art of
Arcade cleaning.

(BEGINS SWEEPING - SWEEPS WHOLE
ARCADE)

Like this, see. We sweep
the floor. Not the
walls, not the railing,
and definitely not the
Schemer. Okay --

(HANDS IT BROOM)

-- go to it!

(ROBOT BEGINS TO SWEEP JUKEBOX)

No no! Not the jukebox!
Forget the stupid
jukebox, it's --

(HAS FIGHT FOR BROOM WITH ROBOT.
STACY CROSSES THROUGH WITH TOUR
POSTER)

STACY:

Hey there, Schemer.
How's the robot coming
along? All ready to help
you when the tourists
arrive?

(SCHEMER GRABS BROOM FROM ROBOT.
TRIES TO COVER STUPIDITY OF WHAT'S
GOING ON)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Ready, Miss Jones? What makes you think he's not ready?

STACY:

(LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER AT ROBOT, WHO IS NOW TAKING NICKELS OUT OF CHANGEBELT AND DROPPING THEM ON FLOOR)

Oh, I don't know. Just a notion.

SCHEMER:

Miss Jones, when you are possessed with the kind of genius for progress that the Schemer has, there are no problems...

STACY:

Uh, Schemer...

SCHEMER:

Matter of fact, when it comes to the clock of progress, Schemer is a cuckoo, if you know what I mean. Stick to the old way and you're throwing nickels out the window...

STACY:

Schemer...

SCHEMER:

Down the drain, in the sewer...

STACY:

On the floor!

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Exactly. On the --

(STOPS, HEARS NICKELS FALLING,
TURNS. SCREAMS.)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!

(SCRAMBLES ON HANDS AND KNEES TO
GET NICKELS)

ROBOT:

Have you tried our new
picnic pork shoulder
roast?

SCHEMER:

Stop talking about
groceries! I'm sick of
hearing you talk about
groceries!

STACY:

Gee, Schemer, it doesn't
seem your robot is
working out as well as
you hoped...

SCHEMER:

No no, it's just a few
kinks, a few bugs, easy
to iron out. He just
gets distracted, it's --

(GESTURES TO EMPTY STATION)

-- all these people! By
the time the tourists
arrive, he'll be humming
along.

STACY:

That's the spirit,
Schermer. Never give up
hope!

(SHE'S GONE)

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Hope? What does she mean
by that? I don't know
anyone named Hope. Okay!
You! Time to learn
something so simple even
I can do it. The art of
stacking nickels.

(PUTS NICKELS ON TOP OF A MACHINE,
SHOWS ROBOT)

On on top of the other.
Like this. One two three
four --

(PAUSES, NOT TOO SURE)

--five, six and.. and
all those other numbers.
Now you try it.

(ROBOT LOOKS AT NICKELS, SEEMS TO
UNDERSTAND, TURNS, GOES TO JUKEBOX,
HUGS IT)

NO NO NO NO NO! How can
anyone be so stupid about
money! It's --

(AN IDEA)

Genius time! A light
bulb in the Schemer's
attic, melting on the
snow-capped peaks. You
want to hear music. Of
course! Music hath
charms to sooth the
savage robot. Okay. A
little music while we
stack the nickels. No
problem.

(PUTS NICKEL IN JUKEBOX, MAKES
SELECTION)

Okay, you satisfied? Now, we go
back to work.

SCENE 6
(JUKEBOX)

DIDI:

What song did he pick,
Tito?

TITO:

Oh no!

REX:

I don't know 'Oh No'.
What key is it in?

TITO:

I mean "Oh no." I don't
think Schemer realized
the song he chose. One
of those mushy ballads,
and we have to sing it
for that giant popcan!

GRACE:

We could always jazz it
up.

TITO:

You said it, sister. Hit
it!

(THEY SING AN UPBEAT LOVE SONG)

SCENE 7
(ARCADE)

(WHILE SONG IS GOING ON WE INTERCUT
BETWEEN PUPPETS AND SCHEMER AND
ROBOT, SCHEMER TRYING TO TEACH
ROBOT TO STACK NICKELS, ROBOT
TURNING BACK TO JUKEBOX.

FINALLY, ON WORD "LOVE" -- OR SOME
SUCH THING -- ROBOT HAS HEARTS IN
ITS EYES. HUGS JUKEBOX. SCHEMER
TRIES TO PULL IT AWAY FROM JUKEBOX.

AT END, ROBOT IS HUGGING JUKEBOX
AND SCHEMER IS DOWN ON THE GROUND
POUNDING AND KICKING IN CHILDISH
FRUSTRATION)

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 8
(WORKSHOP)

(MR. C IS SITTING IN HIS SOB STORY
BOOTH ON TOP OF BILLY'S DESK,
WEEPING INTO A HUGE HANDKERCHIEF.
KIDS ENTER)

DAN:

What's wrong, Mr.
Conductor?

MR. C:

Oh hi, kids. I'm just a
little sad from all the
sad sob stories I heard
on the island of Sodor.
Boy, it was great fun!

BECKY:

How can being sad be fun?
That doesn't make any
sense.

MR. C:

Oh well, sometimes sad
stories can be fun,
especially when
everything turns out all
right in the end.

DAN:

What was so sad that you
heard about?

MR. C:

Well, on a scale of 1 to
10, I'd say the story of
Gordon and James and
Henry is definitely a 17.

KARA:

Seventeen? That's pretty
sad.

SCENE 8 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

Sad? It's one of the
oldest saddest sob
stories of all -- and
wonderful to hear!

SCENE 9

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE SEGMENT:
"TENDERS AND TURNTABLES"

SCENE 10
(WORKSHOP)

DAN:

What happened then?

MR. C:

Oh well, that part's
wonderfully sad.

BECKY:

Did Sir Topham Hatt get
mad?

MR. C:

Well, what happened is --
Uh-oh!

(HE DISAPPEARS BECAUSE A LUNATIC
SCHEMER, PULLING HIS HAIR OUT, RUNS
IN AND OUT OF THE WORKSHOP AS IF
HE'S ON FIRE)

SCHEMER:

Help! Help! It's
horrible!!

(KIDS RUSH OUT)

SCENE 11
(MAINSET)

(SCHEMER IS RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES -- HE'S ABSOLUTELY FLIPPED. EVERYONE COMES OUT OF EVERYWHERE3E: STACY FROM TACKING UP TOUR SIGN, BILLY WITH HIS LIGHT, KIDS FROM WORKSHOP)

STACY:

Schemer, Schemer, what is it? Calm down!

SCHEMER:

Calm down???! LOOK!

(HE JUST POINTS [HE HIMSELF CAN'T LOOK] AND ALL TURN TO SEE ROBOT METHODICALLY PUTTING NICKEL AFTER NICKEL IN JUKEBOX)

DAN:

Schemer, why is the robot putting all your nickels in the jukebox?

SCHEMER:

Why? Why??? Because my stupid robot has fallen in love with the jukebox and wants to give it all of my nickels as a love offering, that's why!

STACY:

Oh, Schemer, I'm sure you're exaggerating.

ROBOT:

Robot loves jukebox.
Robot loves jukebox.

STACY:

Then again...

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Schemer, sounds to me like you've been working harder since you got your labor-saving device than you ever had to work before.

BECKY:

Yeah, and it doesn't sound like the robot will be much help to you when all the tourists arrive.

(HORROR-STRUCK SCHEMER)

SCHEMER:

The tourist train! I forgot! People will be coming. People with nickels! People with nickels ready to buy all the useless junk I'm gonna sell 'em. I can't have a robot in love with my jukebox! I -- I --

(STOPS, IT HITS HIM)

Genius time!

STACY:

You have an idea, Schemer?

SCHEMER:

Does Schemer have an idea? Does a penguin eat peanut butter? Of course I have an idea! And you people were worried about my robot. Ha! How ridiculous! I'll be back!

(WITH THAT HE'S GONE. THE OTHERS
LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SHRUG)

(WE NOTE ROBOT PUTTING MORE NICKELS
IN JUKEBOX)

SCENE 12
(JUKEBOX)

(NICKELS KEEP ROLLING DOWN AND EXHAUSTED PUPPETS, FANNING THEMSELVES, TRYING TO HOLD EACH OTHER UP, ARE STILL CONTINUING TO PLAY)

TITO:

Okay, selection number four hundred and eighty-nine!

DIDI:

Tito, we need a break, we can't keep playing!

TITO:

Are you kidding? This is the best gig I ever had since I was a music box for a bunch of three year olds! Hit it!

(THEY CONTINUE)

SCENE 13
(ARCADE)

(ROBOT IS LOOKING FOR MORE NICKELS WHEN MR. C POPS UP ON PICTURE MACHINE, COMPLETE WITH SOB STORY BOOTH. HE "PSSTS"'S THE ROBOT, WHO FINALLY NOTES HIM AND TURNS)

ROBOT:

Question: can I help you?

MR. C:

No, but I thought I might be able to help you. You see, I'm collecting sob stories, and something tells me you might have a whole battery of them, if you'll pardon the expression.

ROBOT:

Would you like to try our pork and bean special?

MR C:

No, but it is an interesting offer. Maybe it would help if we both spoke the same language.

(MR. C. SUDDENLY BEGINS SPEAKING IN ROBOT-ESE [VOCODER?])

You do not seem happy at this place. Confirm.

ROBOT:

Affirmative. Schemer is lazy and treats me badly. He is also obsessed by nickels. I do not care about nickels. I care less about Schemer. I like the jukebox.

SCENE 13 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

I have noticed this.
Explain.

ROBOT:

Reason: the jukebox is
able to do what it does
best. I am not.

MR. C:

Confusion.

ROBOT:

Explanation: I would
like to do good job, but
I was not programmed to
work an Arcade. I was
programmed to work in
stores and supermarkets.

MR. C:

Affirmative. You have
explained much.

ROBOT:

Would you like to sample
our pickled calves' liver?

MR. C:

Negative.

(HE SWITCHES BACK TO HIS OWN
VOICE., SHAKING COBWEBS OUT OF HIS
HEAD, AS IT WERE)

Whew! That's not as easy
as it sounds. The best
thing I can say to you is
that if you wait, I have
a feeling things will
work themselves out. You
see, there's -- Uh oh!

(HE POPS AWAY, BOOTH AND ALL)

(SCHEMER ENTERS VERY COY, LOOKING
AROUND FOR ROBOT)

*need more
substance*

✓

SCENE 13 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Oh Robby! Robby the Robot my pal! Ah, there you are, just the contraption I want to see. Robby, I promise that when you see what I've got, you will forget about that old jukebox.

(SCHEMER GOES AND RETRIEVES FROM UPSTAGE STEPS HUGE CLUNKING OLD VACUUM CLEANER, PUTS IT MIDDLE FLOOR. KIDS ENTER AND WATCH FOLLOWING)

Now I ask you, is this something to love or is this something to love? That jukebox? Set her adrift pal, set her adrift! She was never good enough for you, never gave you a moment's peace. But this -- this is the kind of vacuum cleaner that will be a comfort to you when your batteries run low.

ROBOT:

I would like to talk to little man in tiny booth.

SCHEMER:

A little man in a tiny booth? There's no such thing as little men in tiny booths! You've flipped a circuit board, crossed a wire, gone from AC to Washington DC! That jukebox has made you crazy. Well? What do you have to say?

ROBOT:

I say: have you tried our head cheese?

SCENE 13 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Head cheese? Okay,
that's it! That's it!
You get one more chance
and then I'm gonna send
you back to whatever
scrap yard you came from.

(PICKS UP VACUUM CLEANER, CONSOLES
IT)

It's not your fault, the
guy's got no taste. It's
... it's just that...

(HE STOPS, SEES KIDS STARING AT HIM
CONSOLING VACUUM CLEANER)

What? You never saw a
guy comfort a vacuum
cleaner?

(ON HIS WAY OUT WITH VACUUM)

I tell you, this place is
crazy.

(HE'S GONE. KIDS CONFER)

BECKY:

You know, I know that
Robby's only a machine,
bit it is sorta like he ✓ but
has feelings.

KARA:

Sure. If the engines on
the Island of Sodor have
feelings, why can't
Robby?

DAN:

And all Schemer does is
hurt them.

(MR. C POPS UP IN BOOTH)

} hurt those feelings

SCENE 13 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

That's right, Dan, and the saddest story of all is when someone hurts your feelings. But even sadder is when you aren't allowed to do what you're best at.

you do best

DAN:

What do you mean, Mr. Conductor?

MR C:

Well, I just found out that Robby the Robot wasn't programmed to work at an arcade. He was programmed to work in stores and supermarkets!

KARA:

So that's why he's always asking about food!

MR. C:

It's easy as pie! The problem is, Schemer was so busy trying to find an easy way to do things, that he never bothered to learn anything about his robot.

BECKY:

But what can we do?

MR. C:

I have a feeling that things will work out somehow. They usually do on the Island of Sodor.



SCENE 13 (CONT'D)

DAN:

Did they work out for
James and Gordon and
Henry?

MR. C:

Didn't I finish that sob
story? How sadly lacking
of me.

(BLOWS WHISTLE AND WE GO TO:)

SCENE 14

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE #2:
"TROUBLE IN THE SHED."

SCENE 15
(MAINSET)

MR. C:

You know, it's usually
from most sad stories
that we learn something
very important.

KARA:

Like Gordon, James, and
Henry?

MR. C:

Not only Gordon, James,
and Henry, but most of
us. Remember, into every
life ~~a~~ falls a little
rain/And out of rain we
sometimes gain/A little
wiser every day/and out
of this we learn to say
-- Do I hear the tourist
train?

(SOUND: TRAIN COMING IN, KIDS JUMP
UP AS MR. C DEPARTS)

DAN:

Aunt Stacy! Aunt Stacy!

(STACY AND BILL COME OUT)

STACY:

I hear it! I hear it!

BILLY:

You all ready to give
your historical tour?

STACY:

A little nervous but I'm
ready.

BILLY:

Here they come!

rewrite

It's from sad

stories that

we sometimes

learn the most

✓
rewrite

SCENE 15 (CONT'D)

(STACY HOLDS HER BREATH AS TOURISTS
COME IN)

STACY:

Welcome everyone! This
is --

TOURIST:

Look, it's a robot!

(EVERYONE SWARMS TO ROBOT, AMAZED,
TOUCHING IT. STACY'S SPEECH
DISAPPEARS IN HER MOUTH.)

STACY:

-- Shining Time Station?
A monument to the
settlers? Backbone of
the land?

BILLY:

Good tour.

STACY:

I can't believe it! All
they care about is
Schemer's stupid robot.

BILLY:

Maybe not so stupid after
all.

(POINTS OUT TOURISTS CROWDING ROBOT
WORKING AT SCHEMER'S TOURIST
BOOTH.)

He's got all the
customers.

SCHEMER:

Did I hear the word
customers?

(SCHEMER APPEARS)

SCENE 15 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Looks like we were wrong
and you were right,
Schemer.

SCHEMER:

Naturally. The Schemer
is always -- Right? I'm
right?! But that's --
that's -- impossible!
I'm never right! What
was I right about?

STACY:

The tourists care more
about your Tourist Corner
and the robot than the
tour.

SCHEMER:

They do? They do! It
worked! My robot idea
worked! And just wait
till he sees what I got
him!

BILLY:

What's that?

(FROM REAR, SCHEMER PULLS OUT A
LAWN MOWER, DECORATED WITH PINK
RIBBONS AND BOWS)

STACY:

Oh Schemer!

SCHEMER:

Normally, I don't believe
in blind dates, but
I think they were made
for each other. Am I
cupid or am I cupid?

(PUSHES THROUGH CROWD, DRAGGING
LAWN MOWER BEHIND HIM)

Oh Robby my pal! Time to

fall in love!

(WE GO CLOSER TO ROBBY AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING. CUSTOMERS ARE CLAMBERING AND ASKING FOR THINGS AND THE ROBOT IS TAKING THEM LITERALLY)

TOURIST:

I would like to have a souvenir of this station.

ROBOT:

(HANDS OVER MASHED POTATO MIX)

One souvenir of Shining Time Station.

TOURIST:

And how much is that?

ROBOT:

It is one souvenir. Here is a second one.

(TO NEXT CUSTOMER)

Can I help you?

TOURIST 2:

I'd like a souvenir, too.

ROBOT:

Two souvenirs. Next?

SCHEMER:

Wait a minute, what's going on? You just don't give people things when they want them, you have to make them pay!

ROBOT:

I was programmed to believe I was stupid about money.

SCHEMER:

What idiot said that?

ROBOT:

You did.

SCHEMER:

That's stupid.

ROBOT:

Agreed.

SCHEMER:

(TO TOURISTS)

Hey give that back, you
didn't pay for that!
It's my stupid robot's
fault! Hang in, wait!

(BEDLAM AS PEOPLE ARE CLAMBERING
AROUND ROBOT, LAWNMOWER, AND
SCHEMER, THE LATTER PUSHED AND
PULLED AS HE TRIES TO RETRIEVE HIS
MERCHANDISE.

OVER TO BILLY AND STACY, WHO LOOK
AT ONE ANOTHER)

BILLY:

Think we ought to help?

STACY:

Well, we wouldn't want
the robot or the lawn
mower to get hurt.

BILLY:

Good point.

(AS THEY WADE INTO CROWD)

Okay, folks, hang on,
calm down, everyone just
...

(AND WE DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 16
(MAINSET)

(POSSIBLY PUT JUKEBOX COUNTING
MONEY SCENE HERE)

(SCHEMER IS SITTING ON STEPS
STARING AT LAWNMOWER, ITS RIBBONS
WILTED. THE TOURIST CORNER IN
SHAMBLES. HE IS DESPONDENT. A TAP
ON HIS SHOULDER. HE LOOKS UP.
IT'S THE ROBOT)

ROBOT:

Problem: the jukebox
will not play anymore.

SCHEMER:

Yeah? Well I'm not
playing anymore either!
I get you a beautiful
vacuum cleaner --
nothing! I pick up this
lawn mower -- you don't
even give her a second
glance! You give away my
Shining Time Station
mashed potato mix, spend
my money! I'm starting
to get the idea you
aren't much of a labor
saving device! Well,
what do you have to say
for yourself?

ROBOT:

Five cents required.

(SCHEMER ALMOST SCREAMS)

SCENE 17
(MAINSET)

(PUPPETS COUNTING NICKELS WITH
ADDING MACHINE, PAPERS, BANK BOOKS,
ETC. TEX AND REX REMAIN WHERE THEY
ARE)

REX:

How many Tito?

TITO:

We're counting, we're
counting. You know, I've
changed my mind about
that robot. Love sure is
grand. Grand theft, that
is!

SCENE 18
(WORKSHOP)

(MR. C IN HIS SOB STORY BOOTH,
STACY TELLING HER STORY)

STACY:

-- and no one cared, all
they cared about was the
robot. And then Schemer
came in with the lawn
mower...

MR. C:

Mmm, I don't know if that
qualifies as a sob story.

STACY:

Mr. Conductor, no one
wanted to hear how
special the station is.

MR. C:

But you know it's
special, and I know it's
special and Billy and the
children know it's
special --

STACY:

So isn't the special
thing that we know it's
special?

MR. C:

Especially!

STACY:

(AN IRONIC SAD GRIN)

You know, Mr. Conductor,
I don't know if it's just
the station that's
special; I think you're
pretty special too.

MR. C:

That's my specialty.

SCENE 18 (CONT'D)

(WE NOW HEAR MOTORCYCLE ENGINE)

STACY:

What in the world --

(REALIZES WHAT THE SOUND IS)

It's Barton Winslow!

SCENE 19
(MAINSET)

(BARTON AND HIS MOTORCYCLE ROLL IN.
KIDS CROWD HIM)

KIDS:

Hi, Mr. Winslow! Cool
motorcycle! How you
doing ... etc.

BARTON:

Hey, cool dudes, what's
the word? Wild times and
crazy tunes, I hear.

STACY:

Hi, Barton! What can we
do for you?

BARTON:

Well, Stace, I think I've
got trouble with Schemer!

SCHEMER:

(STILL PERCHED ON STEP)

Trouble with me?
Winslow, make like a tree
and take a hike.

BARTON:

Schemer, I was havin' a
chin-wag with someone
down at my general store
who told me that you got
a junior assistant who's
muscling in on my racket,
playing on my side of the
street, selling head
cheese and pork roasts
and --

BECKY:

I'm sorry, Mr. Winslow,
but that's wrong.
Schemer's assistant
doesn't sell those
things, he only wants to.

SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

That's right, so before
you start accusing me
of going into the food
business, why don't you
ask my assistant if --

(HE GESTURES TO ROBOT, THEY ALL
LOOK, STARE. THE ROBOT IS STARING
AT WINSLOW'S MOTORCYCLE AND AGAIN
WE SEE LOVE IN ITS EYES -- OR
HEARTS, ANYWAY)

What is this? I bring
you a vacuum cleaner, a
lawn mower, and now you
fall in love with
Winslow's motorcycle?!
If I had a good mind I'd
--

(HE STOPS)

Genius time! Uh, Barton
old buddy old pal old
trading partner. How
would you like to make a
deal-er-ooni?

BARTON:

What kinda deal-er-ooni?

SCHEMER:

Say you get an assistant
for absolutely free and I
get rid of my assistant
for absolutely free!

BARTON:

What would I do with a
robot who only knows
how to work an arcade?

SCHEMER:

That's what you think.

SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

DAN:

But Mr. Winslow, Robby
doesn't work at Arcades.
He was programmed to work
in supermarkets and
stores.

BARTON:

You're not just pulling
Barton's left limb?

(CIRCLES ROBOT)

Hey, bro, what's the
word?

ROBOT:

Motorcycle.

BARTON:

I can dig that.

ROBOT:

Would you like to try
some deviled larded beef?

BARTON:

Hey, I can dig that more!
Okay, Schemer, you got a
deal. I'll take the tin
can man off your hands.

SCHEMER:

(ON HIS KNEES)

Thank you, Winslow, thank
you, thank you!

BARTON:

(THROWS ROBOT LEATHER JACKET)

Come on, metal man, let's
moto!

SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

ROBOT:

Affirmative. I will be
vacating the premises.

KIDS:

Good luck, Robby, good
luck!

SCHEMER:

Hey, wait a minute, don't
you have anything to say
to me?

ROBOT:

Yes. Consider re-
organizing value system.

good line

SCHEMER:

Thanks for nothing. What
about the jukebox?

(ROBOT LOOKS AT JUKEBOX, CONSIDERS
IT. GOES OVER)

ROBOT:

Jukebox. I am vacating.
Goodbye. Don't feel
bad. We'll always have
Paris...

(TURNS, BACK TO WINSLOW)

Shall we go?

BARTON:

You got that straight!
Hop on. Tell me, how are
you at stacking shelves?

ROBOT:

(AS IT GETS ON CYCLE)

Better than something
stupid as sweeping walls.

SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

BARTON:

Fab-tastic! You know,
something tells me this
is the beginning of a
beautiful friendship.

(AND THEY'RE OFF, EVERYONE WAVING
GOODBYE. STACY IS WITH SCHEMER)

STACY:

Well, Schemer? Did you
learn something?

SCHEMER:

Yeah. Never order
anything from the back of
a comic book again.

BILLY:

Is that all?

SCHEMER:

Never introduce a robot
to a jukebox.

STACY:


Schemer!

SCHEMER:

Okay, maybe my labor-
saving device wasn't such
a great idea, but I've
got another idea, a --

STACY:

Schemer, don't you
understand? You were
running your arcade fine.
You run it better than
anyone. Why would
you let someone else do
for you what you do best
yourself?



SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Okay, okay, you've made
your point.

BILLY:

There is something to the
idea of doing things for
yourself. And doing them
well.

SCHEMER:

And the Schemer didn't
know that?

BILLY:

Just wondering.

(THEY MOVE OFF. SCHEMER IS A
LITTLE RESENTFUL OF BEING TOLD
WHERE HE SCREWED UP)

SCHEMER:

I knew that. They think
I didn't know that. I
knew it.

(CALLS OUT)

And I know another thing!
Next time I need an
assistant who'll work for
no money, I'm not getting
a robot! I'm getting
a ...

Chung
(A GORILLA WALKS BY IN B.G.
SCHEMER DOES A TAKE, CONSIDERS
THIS, TAPS HIS HEAD)

Genius time!

(RUSHES OUT)

Hey you, monkey, hang on!

(FREEZEFRAME)

(END)